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MEMORANDUM

October 11, 1951

To: 25X1A [REDACTED] - CIA
Room 1509, "K" Bldg.
From: 25X1A [REDACTED] *gdx*
Subject: Labor Front

25X1C Attached is a brief statement of the problem
[REDACTED] on the labor front. I have
written it rather hurriedly, but I think I have covered
the essential points.

Attachment

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In the Communist arsenal of weapons, there is none so important as the use they make of the trade union and labor movements to further their ends in non-Communist countries. Penetration, infiltration and the seizure of control of trade unions, especially those in the strategic industries, such as coal, communications, transport, maritime, steel and engineering trades, and government service, represent the most fundamental precept of Marxist, Leninist and Stalinist revolutionary strategy. Since Lenin's time, the trade union represents the major medium through which the Communists work.

The technique of establishing Communist control has been reduced to a science. The effort and energy expended on the trade union front, the training of specialists for this work, and the central direction of Communist activities in the trade unions from Moscow represent not just another front on which they operate but a major and decisive front. There are four reasons for this concentration on the trade union movement.

- a. It gives them an economic stranglehold on a country, which they use in two ways: strikes to hurt production; wage demands to encourage inflation.
- b. It gives them direct control over masses and enables them to paralyze a country in times of insurrection and rebellion.
- c. It enables them to foster class hatred and national disunity.
- d. It gives them the means of sabotage and espionage.

The Communists are now the dominant group in the trade union movements of France, Italy and Indonesia. They have powerful groups

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established in the trade union movements of Japan and India. They have a substantial, if less dangerous measure of control, in Finland, and in most of the primitive unions in Central and South America, Africa and the Middle East. Their most serious threat, however, is in the first five countries named, i.e., Italy, France, Indonesia, Japan and India.

To dislodge and destroy Communist control of the trade unions must be a major objective of American policy. To achieve this, the main responsibility falls, in the first instance, on the governments of the respective countries. The social and economic policies which they follow have an important bearing on the strength of Communist influence, for by eliminating unemployment, improving wage and social legislation, equalizing the distribution of wealth, etc., etc., these governments can deprive the Communists of the basis of their mass appeal. But beyond this, only these governments have the power to take steps to strengthen the bona fide trade union elements, and to weaken the Communists where they exercise control.

Another powerful force ranged against Communist control of the trade unions is the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions created by the bona fide trade unions of the world, including the AFL, CIO, the British TUC, etc. This body, with the regional organizations which it is now developing, is the main counter-weight to the Communist-controlled World Federation of Trade Unions. Associated with the ICFTU are the International Transportworkers Federation, the International Metal Trades Federation, the International Clothing

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Workers Federation, and a half dozen other international organizations created by bona fide trade unions in particular industries.

In the United States, the AFL and its associated Free Trade Union Committee have since 1945 supported bona fide trade union elements in various countries in their efforts to rid the trade union movement of Communist control. They maintain representatives in Germany, Europe, Indonesia, India and Japan for this work. But they are hard pressed for funds and have great difficulty expanding their activities. The CIO, since its break with the WFTU, has also been fighting Communism in the international field and has one representative for Europe and one in Italy.

The encouragement of free trade unions throughout the world represents a basic policy of the U.S. government. The Mutual Security Law, just passed, specifically lays this down as legislative policy as well. The State Department maintains labor advisors in Washington and has a corps of about 30 labor attaches in the field. ECA has a Labor Division in Washington and labor advisors in nearly all their missions. The Labor Information Service of the ECA and the one now developing under the USIE have as their objective the trade union field.

A measure of cooperation and participation exists between the free labor unions and the Government in order to further the twin objectives of fighting communism in the international trade union field and developing strong bona fide trade unions. There is, however, a great deal more that can be done in this field both by the Government and by the unions working separately and in concert. Similarly the

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influence of this Government can be brought to bear on certain other Governments to induce them to follow policies designed to strengthen bona fide labor movements.

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